

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of October 19, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-28 and 36-38 remain in this application. Claims 29, 30 and 48 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 31-36 and 39-47 have been withdrawn.

The Office Action Summary indicates that dependent claim 28 is withdrawn from consideration, presumably based upon the election of species requirement. However, according to the undersigned's records, claim 28 should not be withdrawn and a reading of claim 28 (which is dependent upon independent claim 19) confirms that this claim is readable on elected Species 1 and should be examined in the present application. Examination of claim 28 is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended the specification to include the reference labels 525 and 530 found in Fig. 5. No new matter has been added.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the action contends that the features limitations of claims 11-12 related to third control signal must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). The specification stands objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the action contends that the recitations in claims 11 and 12 related to the third control signal are neither described in the specification nor shown in the figures. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Referring to the description at paragraphs [48] to [51] and Fig. 5, an illustrative implementation of the invention of claims 11 and 12 is provided. Also, applicants refer to the general description about how control signals affect the current context in, for example, paragraphs [41] and [42] and the application of the discussion to the particular implementation of Fig. 5. In addition, one skilled in the art will appreciate that the layer 1 525 and layer 2 530 may correspond to the pattern layers in Fig. 2 and that the EL driver 220 provides a control signal to the pattern layers via the electrical connections 215a and 215b. In view of the above, claims 11 and 12 are fully supported by the specification and shown in the figures. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is requested.

Claim 6 stands objected to because it is dependent upon itself. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 5 to obviate this rejection.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1-15, 19, 21-26, 36 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,824,321 B2 to Ward et al. ("Ward"). Claims 16-18, 20 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward in view of U.S. patent no. 6,056,195 to Spain. Claims 30 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward in view of U.S. publication no. 2004/0253973 A1 to Nguyen et al. ("Nguyen"). Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward in view of U.S. publication no. 2004/0036632 A1 to Ford. Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward in view of U.S. publication no. 2003/0174072 A1 to Salomon.

Applicants are concurrently submitting herewith a Declaration under 37 CFR § 1.131 to establish an earlier date of invention prior to September 19, 2002, the effective filing date of Ward, thereby removing Ward as a reference, for the invention of claims 1-26 and 36-38. Accordingly withdrawal of the art rejections is respectfully requested.

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Amendment dated January 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2005

CONCLUSION

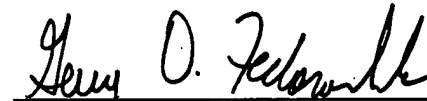
It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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By:



Gary D. Fedorochko
Registration No. 35,509

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001
GDF:lab